THE RECANTATION OF DANIEL SCARGILL,

Publickly made before the

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE;

In Great S^t^ MARIES,

July 25. 1669.

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WHereas I *Daniel Scargill*, late Batchelour of Arts and Fellow of *Corpus Christi* Colledge in the University of *Cambridge*, being through the instigation of the Devil, possessed with a foolish proud conceit of my own wit, and not having the fear of God before my eyes; Have lately vented and publickly asserted in the said Universitie divers wicked, Blasphemous and Atheistical positions, (particularly) That all right of Dominion is founded onely in Power; That if the Devil were omnipotent he ought to be obeyed; That all moral Righteousnes is founded onely in the positive Law of the Civil Magistrate; That the Scriptures of God are not Law further then they are enjoyned by the Civil Magistrate; That the Civil Magistrate is to be obeyed though he should forbid the worship of God, or command Theft, Murder, and Adultery; professing that I gloryed to be an *Hobbist* and an Atheist; and vaunting that *Hobbs* should be maintained by *Daniel*, that is, by me: Agreeably unto which principles and positions, I have lived in great licentiousnes; swearing rashly; drinking intemperately; boasting my self insolently;

 corrupting

corrupting others by my pernicious principles and example: To the high dishonour of God, the Reproach of the Universitie, the Scandal of Christianitie, and the just offence of mankinde. And whereas the Vicechancellour and Heads of the said Universitie, upon notice of these my foul enormities, upon a full examination and clear conviction of these premised offences, after suspension from my degree, did expel me out of the said Universitie: Now I the said *Daniel Stargill*, after frequent consideration, strict examination and serious review of the said Positions, do finde by the grace of that God, whom I had deny'd, that they are not onely of dangerous and mischievous consequence, Inconsistent with the Being of God, and destructive to humane society, but that they are utterly false, the suggestions of a lying spirit, wholly against my own judgement resolved upon better consideration, as well as against the common sense of mankinde. And I do freely acknowledge the proceedings and sentence of my Governours, the Vicechancellour and Heads of the Universitty to be just and equal, agreeable to the duty of their place, and the Trust reposed in them, That they could not have done less to vindicate the Divine honour, and suppress that mischief growing up in this age, which no former hath known.

And now I Adore and Bless the highest Majesty of God in his infinite mercy to me, that he hath not suffered me to go on unreclaimed in my enormous principles and practices, but hath made my face to be ashamed, that I may seek his name. *Righteousness belongeth unto thee O Lord, but unto me*, and to those who have seduced me, and to those who have been seduced by me, *shame and confusion of face*. Oh what height of wickedness had I arrived unto!

For

For I muſt confeſs my ſelf guilty of impleading the Divine Majeſty at the Tribunal of humane wit, making man judge whether God ſhould be God or no. Nay, whereas the Devil, my tempter, to whom I had hearkned, doth beleeve and tremble, I vile wretch have been void of the Faith and fear of God in the manifold manifeſtations of him. Wherefore I humbly ask pardon of God above all, whom I have blaſphemed; of my Governours in the Univerſitie whom I have diſturbed; of all Chriſtians and all men for the great offence I have given unto all: more eſpecially of ſo many as have been miſled into any errour or vice by me. And I do alſo humbly and earneſtly beſeech all men, eſpecially ſo many of the younger Scholars as have been ſeduced by me (who now abhor what I formerly boaſted to aſſert) that they beware by my example of the moſt ſubtile inſinuations of the Devil in the vain oſtentation of their own wit. *That they lean not to their own underſtanding*, but conſult the holy Scriptures, the lively Oracles of God, That from thence they may learn *φρονῆν εἰς τὸ σωφρονῆν to be wiſe unto ſobriety*, as the holy Apoſtle with great wiſdom requires. And now I humbly hope and truſt in the infinite mercy of that God againſt whom I had audaciouſly opened my unhallowed mouth, that He who hath promiſed that all ſin and blaſphemy ſhall be forgiven unto men (excepting onely that reſolved malicious blaſphemy againſt the Holy Ghoſt) will be graciouſly pleaſed to glorifie his mercy in the forgiveneſs of my moſt deteſtable errours and abominable ſins. And I thank God that he hath awakened me in good meaſure to a juſt deteſtation of the accurſed Poſitions aſſerted by me, and of all other like wicked principles.

Wherefore, I do here in the preſence of God, Angels and

and men, cast my self down in a deep dread of the just judgements and vengeance of God upon the accursed Atheism of this age, acknowledging my self to be highly guilty of the growth and spreading thereof, having contributed what my [illegible] wit could devise, or my foul mouth express, to instil into others or confirm them therein. And I do profess, I believe (and judge it most reasonable so to believe) that the openly professed Atheism of some, and the secret Atheism of others, is the accursed root of all that abounding wickedness, perjury, sacriledge, debauchery and uncleanness in this present age. That in a deep sense of that wretched part I have acted in the propagating thereof, I do now abhor my self in dust and ashes, and that from the bottom of my heart, I do disclaim, renounce, detest and abhor those execrable Positions asserted by me or any other: particularly

1. *That all right of Dominion is founded onely in power.*

2. *That all moral Righteousness is founded onely in the Law of the Civil Magistrate.*

3. *That the Holy Scriptures are made law onely by Civil Authority.*

4. *That whatsoever the Civil Magistrate commands is to be obeyed, notwithstanding contrary to Divine moral Laws.*

5. *That there is a desirable glory in being and being reputed an Atheist*, which I implied when I expressly affirmed that I gloried to be an *Hobbist*, and an Atheist.

For

For theſe unhallowed aſſertions and expreſſions, I now finde ſuch inward contrition and remorſe, that I pray God his mercy may withhold me from Relapſe, or his judgements prevent it. But do I think that a bare Recantation can ſatisfie for my prodigious offences? No, Let me do penance all my days, ſubmitting my ſelf to Gods will, and the charity of pious minds: And whatſoever my portion may be in this world, Let me live and die in the fear of God and the faith of Chriſt. *Amen.*

Now leſt any one ſhould miſtake or ſuſpect this confeſſion and unfeigned renunciation of my ſinful and accurſed errours, for an act of civil obedience or ſubmiſſion in me, performed according to my former principles, at the command of my Superiours, in outward expreſſion of words, though contrary to my judgement and inward thoughts of my heart, or that I have not now expreſſed the moſt ſincere and ſecret ſenſe of my ſoul, I call the Searcher of all hearts to witneſs, that I loath and abhor ſuch practices as the baſeſt and moſt damnable hypocriſie: That from my heart and ſoul I deteſt ſuch principles in all perſons, as worſe then the baſeſt villanies and reſervations, which the Jeſuites are ſaid to practiſe or allow. And I openly avow that I do acknowledge, that all perſons ſo principled ought to be held by all mankinde as the moſt dangerous and declared enemies of the common faith amongſt men. That they are not to be truſted upon any obligation of their faith, or pretenſions to piety, loyalty, or common honeſty, in any Corporation, Colledge, Univerſity, City, Common-wealth or Kingdom: but, that by thoſe principles, deſtructive to all ſociety and commerce amongſt men, they may and do delude and defeat all Oaths and Proteſtations, all faith given to God or

man

man: They may and will comply, if their own Interest or Advantage prompt them to it, with any Invader or Usurper: with any Faction or growing Sect, however destructive to all order and the very being of humane society in the world. I believe also, and openly avouch, That no power upon earth, no perswasion or imagination about natural Right, no opinion in pretended Philosophie concerning self-preservation, can free me from the obligation that is now upon me, in this my open profession of Repentance for my accursed errors and grievous sins, to speak the truth in sincerity before God and man.

This Recantation and sincere Profession I make willingly and freely, of my own minde and choice: not in compliance with the command or will of any other, nor upon designe to gain a better opinion amongst men in the world, not for any worldly advantage, profit, or self-end of my own: but out of a hearty detestation of my foul errours and sins, and I am glad of this opportunity to disburden my soul, oppressed with the weight of the same.

So help me God.

DANIEL SCARGILL.